

In the Claims:

Kindly amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) Shed forming device for a weaving machine, comprising two or more sets of hooks (2) which are provided with complementary hooks (2a, 2b), operating in conjunction with a pulley (40), ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the complementary hooks (2a, 2b) of one set of hooks (2) are operating in conjunction with one pulley (40), and a number of first pulleys (40a) of one or more sets of hooks (20a) are provided in an upper row (10), and a number of second pulleys (40b) of one or more second sets of hooks (20b) are provided in a lower row (101).

2. (currently amended) Shed forming device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a first (20a) and a second adjacent set of hooks (20b) operating in conjunction with a first pulley (40a) from the upper row (100) and a second pulley (40b) from the lower row (101) respectively, will overlap one another, at least partly, when projected on a horizontal plane.

3. (currently amended) Shed forming device according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein, after projection on a horizontal plane, the distance between a first set of hooks (20a) operating in conjunction with a first pulley (40a) from the upper row (100) and a second adjacent set of hooks (20b) operating in conjunction with a second pulley (40b) from the lower row (101) is shorter than the total of half the width of said first pulley (40a) and half the width of said second pulley (40b).

4. (currently amended) Shed forming device according to ~~any one of the claims 1 up to and including 3~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said first (40a) and second pulley (40b) are shifted widthwise over half a pitch.

5. (currently amended) Shed forming device according to ~~any one of the claims 1 up to and including 4~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said first (40a) and second pulley (40b) are each provided with one or more pulley cords (5, 15, 16) and in that said adjacent first pulleys (40a) are practically resting against one another and said adjacent second pulleys (40b) are practically resting against one another and are provided with a recess (9), so that the pulley cords (15) connecting the complementary hooks (2a, 2b) of the second sets of hooks (20b) may extend upwards over an upper pulley wheel (4a) of the second lower pulleys (40b), in the recesses (9) of two adjacent first upper pulleys (40a) and the pulley cords (16) being connected to one or more heddles and return springs of a Jacquard weaving machines over a lower pulley wheel (4b) of the first upper pulleys (40a) may extend downwards in the recesses (9) of two adjacent lower pulleys (40b).

6. (currently amended) Shed forming device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the device is provided with single lifting elements (3) in order to take along the sets of hooks (20) on selection.

7. (currently amended) Shed forming device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~

wherein the device (1) is used in a two- or more-position open shed Jacquard machine. .

8. (currently amended) Weaving machine comprising a shed forming device according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1.